IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A compressor comprising:

a cylinder head defining a chamber, and a valve plate mounted at an end of said cylinder head;

a piston reciprocating within said cylinder head toward and away from said valve plate;

an inlet valve for allowing flow of a fluid into said chamber; ~~and~~

a discharge valve for selectively allowing flow of a compressed fluid outwardly of said chamber, said discharge valve being positioned at an opposed end of a discharge port from said chamber, said discharge port having a first cross-sectional area, said discharge valve being flexible away from said discharge port in response to a force from the compressed fluid, and said discharge valve seating on a valve seat on said valve plate, an area defined inwardly of said valve seat is greater than said first cross-sectional area, said area defined inwardly of said valve seat being non-cylindrical;

said valve seat defining a shape inward of said valve seat which is distinct from a shape of said area of said discharge port; and

said valve seat having a central circular area with two opposed ears extending radially outwardly from said circular area to define said increase in area over said first cross-sectional area.

2. (Currently Amended) A compressor as recited in Claim 1, wherein said inlet valve also seating on ~~said valve~~ a valve seat.

3. (Original) A compressor a recited in Claim 2, wherein said inlet valve is positioned radially outwardly of said discharge valve, with said discharge port generally being positioned near the center of said chamber.

4. (Original) A compressor as recited in Claim 1, wherein said discharge port extends to a downstream end, and a ramp then extends to said valve seat, said valve seat being positioned radially outward of said downstream end of said discharge port.

5.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A compressor comprising:

a cylinder head defining a chamber, and a valve plate mounted at an end of said cylinder head;

a piston reciprocating within said cylinder head toward and away from said valve plate;

an inlet valve for allowing flow of a fluid into said chamber;

a discharge valve for selectively allowing flow of a compressed fluid outwardly of said chamber, said discharge valve being positioned at an opposed end of a discharge port from said chamber, said discharge port having a first cross-sectional area, said discharge valve being flexible away from said discharge port in response to a force from the compressed fluid, and said discharge valve seating on a valve seat on said valve plate, an area defined inwardly of said valve seat is greater than said first cross-sectional area; and

said area defined inwardly of said valve seat is greater than said area of said discharge port by at least 200%, and said area defined inwardly of said discharge port is both non-cylindrical, and symmetric, with plural portions formed on spaced sides of a central plane of said area.

8. (Original) A compressor as recited in Claim 1, wherein said fluid is a refrigerant.

9. (Original) A compressor as recited in Claim 8, wherein said refrigerant is CO_2.

10. (Previously Presented) A compressor as recited in Claim 1, wherein said discharge valve is pinned at one end with the second end being flexible away from said discharge port.